REMARKS

By the foregoing amendments to the specification, a cross-reference to the parent international application has been provided and the claims have been amended to better conform to U.S. practice and to omit multiple dependencies.

The filing fee has been calculated based on the claims as amended above. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 7, 2001

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 2, 4-11, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, and 31, as follows:

2. (Amended) A screening module according to claim 1, wherein said screen support member includes an integral stiffening frame and intermediate strut core of rigid construction over which is moulded [plastics] plastic material.

4. (Amended) A screening module according to [any one of claims] claim 2 [and 3], wherein said moulded [plastics] plastic material is polyurethane.

5. (Amended) A screening module according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein said screen support member is configured whereby the length thereof is selected to span adjacent support rails of a [conventional] screening deck.

6. (Amended) A screening module according to claim 5, wherein said screen support frame [be] is secured to the support rails by securing means selected to provide both intimate attachment of the screen support frame to the supporting rails as well as interconnection between adjacent modules on the screen deck.

7. (Amended) A screening module according to claim 6, wherein [said securing means includes] the screen support frames [being] are provided with end portions configured to accept fastenings that interconnect adjacent screen support frames to said support rails as well as securing the adjacent screen support frames together, and said securing means comprise said fastenings.

8. (Amended) A screening module according to claim 7, wherein [said] the securing means [is] are selected whereby the securing means [does] do not extend above the surface of the screening panels in use, whereby an uninterrupted screening surface may be maintained.

9. (Amended) A screening module according to claim 8, wherein said securing means [is] are adapted to be installed before said screening panels are installed on the screen support members whereby the screen panels may overlie the securing means.

10. (Amended) A screening module according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein said intermediate strut takes the form of one or more strut portions extending from the periphery of the screen support member, whereby the maximum unsupported span of the screen panel is reduced to control screening grade.

11. (Amended) A screening module according to claim 10, wherein said intermediate strut [take] takes the form of an orthogonal array of strut portions disposed between [the] opposed sides and opposed ends of the screen support member to reduce the open area of the support member to panes.

16. (Amended) A screening module according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein said screen panels are moulded from polyurethane.

18. (Amended) A screening module according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, whereby the screen panels are sized to be flush-edged with the screen support member in use whereby the assembled screen modules formed therewith may in assembly on a screen deck present a continuous screening surface.

19. (Amended) A screening module according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein said snap-in connection comprises complementary snap-in components formed integrally with the respective screen support member portions and the screen panels.

21. (Amended) A screening module according to [any one of claims] claim 19 [and 20], wherein said snap-in component on the screen support member includes an upstanding ridge extending about he periphery of a screen panel mounting portion of the screen support member the ridge having on [its] an outward facing surface a peripheral groove, the corresponding snap-in component of the screen panel including a reentrant channel having a ridge adapted to engage the groove on the screen support member when the channel is deformed thereover.

23. (Amended) A screening module according to [any one of claims] claim 21 [and 22], wherein the peripheral groove of the upstanding ridge is supplemented by an undercut on the inner periphery of the upstanding ridge, whereby the reentrant channel may engage both the undercut and the peripheral groove.

24. (Amended) A screening module according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the snap-in connection between the intermediate strut and the screen panel comprises a profiled upstanding ridge provided on the intermediate strut and adapted to engage a corresponding profile groove formed integrally with the screen panel.

26. (Amended) A screening module according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the plan area of the peripheral frame and intermediate strut and their respective snap-in connections with the screen panel are selected whereby the effective screening area is at least 75% of the total area of the screen modules.

27. (Amended) A method of mounting screening modules to a support rail of a screen deck including the steps of:

providing the screening module with an end portion adapted to overlie a support rail of a screening deck and having a recess formed therein defining a shoulder, said shoulder having a locating groove;

abutting said module recess-to-recess with an adjacent screening module on said support rail;

inserting into said recess a collet adapted to coact with said locating groove and the corresponding locating groove of the adjacent screening module to locate said screening modules in abutment; and

fastening said modules with fastening means adapted to cooperate with said collet to secure said modules to the support rail.

31. (Amended) A screening module according to [any one of claims] claim 28 [to 30], wherein the locating groove is in the form of an arcuate groove in the shoulder, the apex of which is disposed to the side of the fastening away from the abutment with the adjacent panel.